

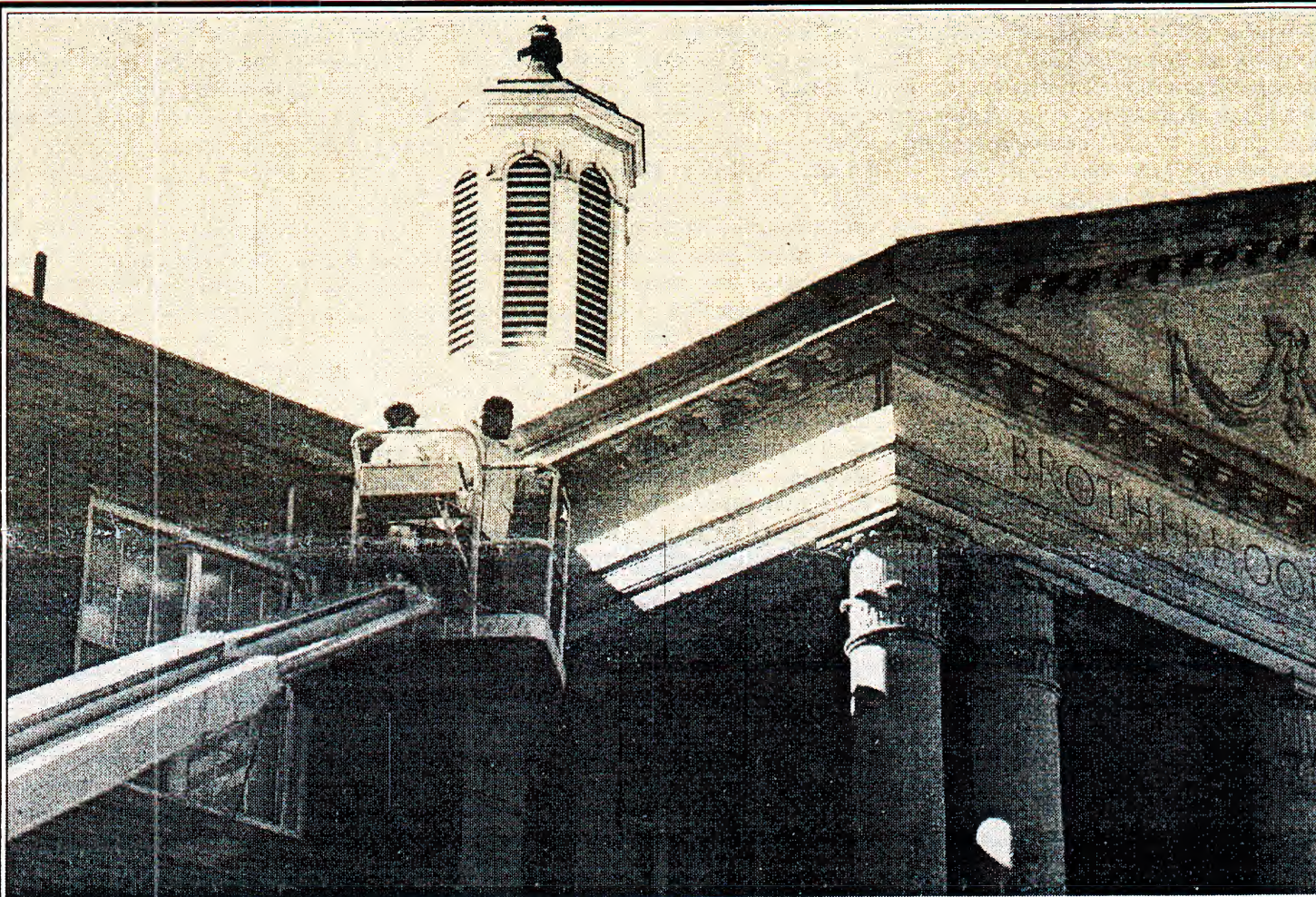
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PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

Vol. 21, No. 1

Citizen Potawatomi Nation

January 1999



Potawatomi Nation Industrial Services Workers At Oklahoma Baptist University

Career change leads to tribe's newest enterprise

By MICHAEL DODSON

When one considers educational preparation for ownership and management of a paint contracting/sandblasting firm, an undergraduate degree in Petroleum Engineering and a juris doctorate are not the first to come to mind. Matter of fact, it's probably not even the 50th or 100th.

However, Jeff Craig has followed that career path. Craig manages the latest

addition to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation family of owned-and-operated enterprises – Potawatomi Nation Industrial Services.

The company is available to tackle a variety of sandblasting and painting jobs. It recently completed a major contract, working on buildings on the Oklahoma Baptist University campus in Shawnee.

Craig, who is the son of former Oklahoma Agriculture Department

Commissioner Jack Craig, started the firm about seven years ago, while he was still a successful attorney in Oklahoma City, practicing mainly oil and gas law. He initially operated it from his garage.

"The most telling story, to illustrate why I made the career change, concerns a client who sought custody of his children, who were being abused by their

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Radio station purchase final

By MICHAEL DODSON

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation now owns one of central Oklahoma's oldest radio stations. The Nation has completed purchase of KGFF-AM (1450 kHz) from the Sanders/Cantrell Partnership.

"We are pleased to have finalized the ownership transfer and look forward to serving the information and entertainment needs of Shawnee, Pottawatomie County, and the surrounding area," said John "Rocky" Barrett, Citizen Potawatomi Chairman.

KGFF-AM debuted in 1930, during commercial radio's infancy. The station is known for its commitment to a hometown approach to broadcasting. "We will continue that approach, which means providing area residents the information they need to make day-to-day decisions," Barrett said.

AM 1450 KGFF programming is currently a mix of classic music hits from the 1968 to 1985 era, local sports, news, and entertainment, Paul Harvey commentary, ABC National and World News, and sports talk.

Michael Dodson, KGFF station manager, said, "We want to know what the largest number of our potential listeners would like to hear on KGFF and will be asking them over the next few weeks. That will allow us to 'fine tune' our programming."

KGFF-AM hosted one major winter event in mid-January and has another scheduled for mid-February. The station sponsored the annual Pottawatomie County Basketball Tournament in

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TRIBAL TRACTS

Walking on ...

James Walter Smith

Longtime area resident James Walter Smith of Canadian, Okla., died Sunday, December 13, 1998, in Las Vegas, Nev. He was 68.

He was born July 30, 1930, in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. A member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, he attended Tecumseh schools. He married Kathern McWaters and was an independent electrical contractor. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and earned the rank of E-3. He had lived in the Shawnee area most of his life and attended Liberty Baptist Church.

Preceding him in death were his wife, Kathern M. Smith, in 1998; his parents; a daughter, Cynthia Smith, and stepson, Danny Hendrick. Surviving are his sons and daughters-in-law, Paul and Paula Smith, Las Vegas, Nev.; the Rev. Clint and April Sinclair, Beggs; and seven grandchildren. Services were held December 17 at Resthaven Funeral Chapel with Rev. Bill Matthews and the Rev. Phil Thompson officiating. Burial was at Tecumseh Cemetery.

Joyce M. Conard

Joyce M. Conard, 62, of Ogden, Kansas, died September 24, 1998, at her residence following a lengthy illness. She was born in Ogden, Kansas on January 3, 1936 to Edward James and Edna Mary (Diegleman) Bumbaugh. Her father preceded her in death in

1985. She married Russell O. Conard on January 29, 1955 in Cisne, Illinois. Mr. Conard survives. Other survivors include two daughters, Lori Schmidt of Stafford, Virginia; Jill Ward of Ogden; her mother, Edna Bumbaugh of Ogden; a sister, Lorraine Allen of El Dorado, Kansas; and, six grandchildren.

A lifetime resident of Ogden, Mrs. Conard was a homemaker and a 20-year volunteer at the Ogden City Library. She attended University Christian Church in Manhattan, Kansas and enjoyed gardening, traveling to the mountains, reading, and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on September 28, 1998 at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Lundeen Funeral Chapel in Manhattan, Kansas with David Pape officiating. The family requested that memorial contributions be made at the KSU Foundation for the Center for Basic Cancer Research, or to the University Christian Church.

Claude Preston Wickens

Claude Preston Wickens, 95, passed away January 2, 1999. He was born March 13, 1903, to Lee Preston and Carrie (Rhodd) Wickens in Choctaw, Oklahoma. He was a descendant of Julia (Beaubien) Wickens, Citizen Potawatomi Allottee 581, and John Leander Rhodd, Citizen Potawatomi Allottee 658. His family moved to Oklahoma City in 1909. He owned and operated Steinmetz Auto Upholstery Shop at 613 N. Hudson in Oklahoma City for 35 years.

Mr. Wickens was preceded in death by two sisters, Ruby Steinmetz and Goldie Rollins. He is survived by Totsy, his loving wife of 68 years; two sons, Don of Edmond, Oklahoma and Ron of Memphis, Tennessee. Also surviving are one sister, Carrie Lee Jones; six grandchildren, Julie Mock, Donna Lisle, Charlotte Wheeler, Derek Wickens, Matt Wickens, and Taylor Wickens; and seven great-grandchildren, Phillip and Andrew Mock, Jackson and Connor Lisle, and Austin, Peyton, and Brennan Wheeler.

Mr. Wickens was a member of the Baptist Temple since 1954 and served as a Deacon for many years. He will be missed by family and friends. Services were held on January 5, 1999, at the Baptist Temple in Oklahoma City with burial at Memorial Park Cemetery.

Alice Mae (Melott) Thayer

The spirit of Alice Mae (Melott) Thayer walks with God. She was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, born on August 22, 1899 in Wanette, Oklahoma, to William Warren

Melott, a Potawatomi allottee, and Myrtle (Sherwin) Melott. She was the oldest of 5 children who included 2 brothers, Frank and Earl Melott, and 2 sisters, Letha (Melott) Tacker, and Joyce (Melott) Cagle, all of whom have preceded her in death. She was 99 when she died on December 22, 1998, in Tampa, Florida.

Mrs. Thayer had 5 children, including twin sons, Lester and Luther Dean, who preceded her in death. She is survived by son Frank L. Myers, Boise, Idaho; and daughters Wanda L. Ferrish and Laquetta J. Webber, both of Odessa, Florida. She is also survived by 8 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Thayer lived in Oklahoma most of her life. In 1927 she married Martin "Van" Thayer, who died in 1979. They were devoted members of and very active in various Assembly of God churches around Oklahoma City and Midwest City, Oklahoma. In 1976 Alice and Van moved to Florida and were members of the First Assembly of God Church, New Port Richey, Florida.

Lucian McKinney

Lucian McKinney, 76, passed on December 31, 1998, in Kansas. A drum service was held for him at the Kickapoo Indian Senior Citizens Center west of Horton. He was born May 20, 1922, in Mayetta, Kansas, to Henry and Anna (Rhodd) McKinney. He served many years in the Army and was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He held the rank of staff sergeant before he retired. He served on the Governor's Task Force for establishing the Kansas Association of Native American Education.

He was married to Marie LaMar on January 14, 1974, in Humansville, Missouri; she survives. Sons Lucian McKinney Jr. and Steven L. McKinney preceded him in death. Other survivors include sons Bert McKinney, Anadarko, Okla., and Alva McKinney, Carbondale, Ill., and daughters Candice Ruth McKinney, Anadarko, Okla., and Katherine McKinney-Johnson, Mannheim, Germany.

Also surviving are brothers Oran McKinney of Arkansas, Donald "Sony" McKinney, Lansing, and Dwight McKinney, Tulsa, Okla.; sisters Adelia Gutierrez, Gwen McKinney Burns, Jeannette Bowsher and Itis Milton, all in Horton; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Burial was at Kennekuk Indian Cemetery west of Horton. Dishon-Maple-Chaney Mortuary in Horton was in charge of arrangements.

Louis Witcher

(Canton, South Dakota) Louis W. Witcher, 89, died Sunday, January 10, 1999, at Canton-Inwood Memorial Hospital. Louis was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. His grandfather was James Brigham Muller and his mother was Margaret (Maggie) Muller. He was born January 19, 1909, in Wanette, Oklahoma.

As a child, Mr. Witcher moved with his family to Beresford, South Dakota. He grew up and received his education there. He then did farm work in the area. Mr. Witcher married Alma Vik on July 9, 1929, in Parker. The couple farmed near Vermillion until moving to Sioux Falls in 1939. The Farmer's Union employed him in 1951; he retired in 1971. The couple moved to Canton in 1972.

Mr. Witcher was a member of Canton Lutheran Church. In addition to his wife, survivors include one son, Billy, of Pasadena, California, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Services were held at George Boom Funeral Home, with burial at Hills of Rest Memorial Park.

Wanda "Chris" Christine Nesbitt Melott

Wanda "Chris" Christine Nesbitt Melott sadly made her journey from Mother Earth to the Great Star Nation on February 8, 1998, after a short battle with cancer. She was the only child of Benjamin Franklin Melott and Lucille Chambless Melott, born on October 25, 1927 in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Chris was a lifelong resident of Galveston, Texas. Becoming an independent business woman, she owned and operated several clubs, invested in real estate, dealt in wholesale jewelry, and was a building contractor. But her main joys were her family, her pride in her heritage, and a good game of poker.

She passed away at her home with her devoted daughter at her side, never fearing what was coming but only knowing she would miss her loved ones with all her heart. Services were held at Malloy and Son Funeral Home in Galveston, Texas. She was laid to rest at Campground Cemetery in Woodville, Texas, next to her mother who preceded her in death two months earlier.

Chris is survived by her son, Keith Primm of Bay St. Louis, MS; daughter Kathleen Michelle Guindon and son-in-law Buddy Guindon and three loving grandchildren, Nicholas, Ricky, and Hans, all of Santa Fe, Texas. Her memory will live in her family's hearts forever.

HOW-NI-KAN PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

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A Letter From The Open Road

(Editor's note: Citizen Potawatomi tribal member Susan Campbell and her husband Eric, Washington state residents, experienced the dream many of us share — the open road ahead and no definite itinerary. What follows is Susan's report on a 12,000-mile odyssey during the summer of 1998.)

Well, we finally did it! After talking about it, planning for it, and laying out the actual groundwork, we finally retired and went on the road!

It is easy to say but was a very complex thing to accomplish. It involved Eric's retirement from Boeing after 33 years, my leaving my position with the Potawatomi tribal office, locating someone willing to take care of things on the home front for five months (our daughter Rhian offered and we gratefully accepted), getting the truck and our 36-foot fifth wheel in shape, and packing

We did not know what we would need for that length of time. We added a couple of luxuries to the camper, a washer-dryer unit and a custom-made computer with a scanner.

On the afternoon of June 5, we left Seattle for parts unknown. We had a few destinations in mind: my cousin Leo's home in Soldier, Kansas; Eric's brother Peter's home in Fairfax, Virginia; his aunt's and uncle's home in Idaho; my aunt's and uncle's home in New Mexico; the Potawatomi pow wow in Shawnee, Oklahoma; the Woodland Workshops in Lafayette, Indiana; the Potawatomi Gathering in Athens, Michigan; and, the Trail of Death caravan, beginning in Rochester, Indiana.

The rest of the trip we created as we went. This enabled us to spend a wonderful week living on the shores of Lake Huron outside Mackinaw City, Michigan. I watched the lights slowly brighten on the "Mighty Mac" bridge and on the Grand Hotel across the water from us on Mackinac Island.

We were able to travel to Walpole Island, an unceded group of islands owned by the Three Fires Confederacy (Ottawa, Ojibwa, and Potawatomi), to do research.

We learned about the New Dawn of Tradition Pow Wow in Madison, Wisconsin. It marked the first time, since the Prairie du Chien treaty of 1825, that all the tribes in Wisconsin had been together as a people. (These included two tribes removed to Oklahoma.) We headed there.

It was deeply moving to see the

seven eagle staffs head into the Circle and exciting to hear the 16 drums sharing their songs as we watched the Forest County Potawatomi Head Lady Dancer gracefully make her way around the arena.

We were able to do genealogical and Potawatomi research along the way. In Racine, Wisconsin, we visited Mound Cemetery. The Ouilmettes originally owned this beautiful piece of property and due to Mr. Ouilmette's foresight when the Potawatomi were removed in 1836, there are still 17 Indian mounds that were protected from destruction, the only readily-identifiable mounds left in that area.

Franksville, Wisconsin, formerly Skunk Grove, is the location of a former trading post run by Louis Vieux and his brother Jacques. A local historian took us to the actual site, as they have documented it. We photographed stonework which could have been a part of the post.

We spoke with many people who shared their bits of information about the Potawatomi people or the Vieux family or both. As a result, we have reams of paperwork to sort through, copies of documents, articles, and texts. We found new language materials and met people committed to keeping the Potawatomi language alive and viable; some of those materials made it home with us.

And, we took time to play, to learn to make cordage and weave baskets using milkweed and mulberry, to learn new quilling techniques and old ways to make fire. We visited with friends, ones who have shared their lives with us over the years and ones we've just come to know and cherish this summer.

We checked out the Ojibwa Museum in St. Ignace, Michigan, Fort Michilimackinac in Mackinaw City, Mackinac Island, and their fudge shops.

We were privileged to see the world premiere of the History Channel's production of "Tecumseh" in Lafayette, the Pokagon pow wow, and give a one-hour presentation about the Trail of Death at the Gathering in Michigan. We were honored by leaders of several of the Bands, including being presented a blanket by Citizen Potawatomi Nation Chairman John Barrett.

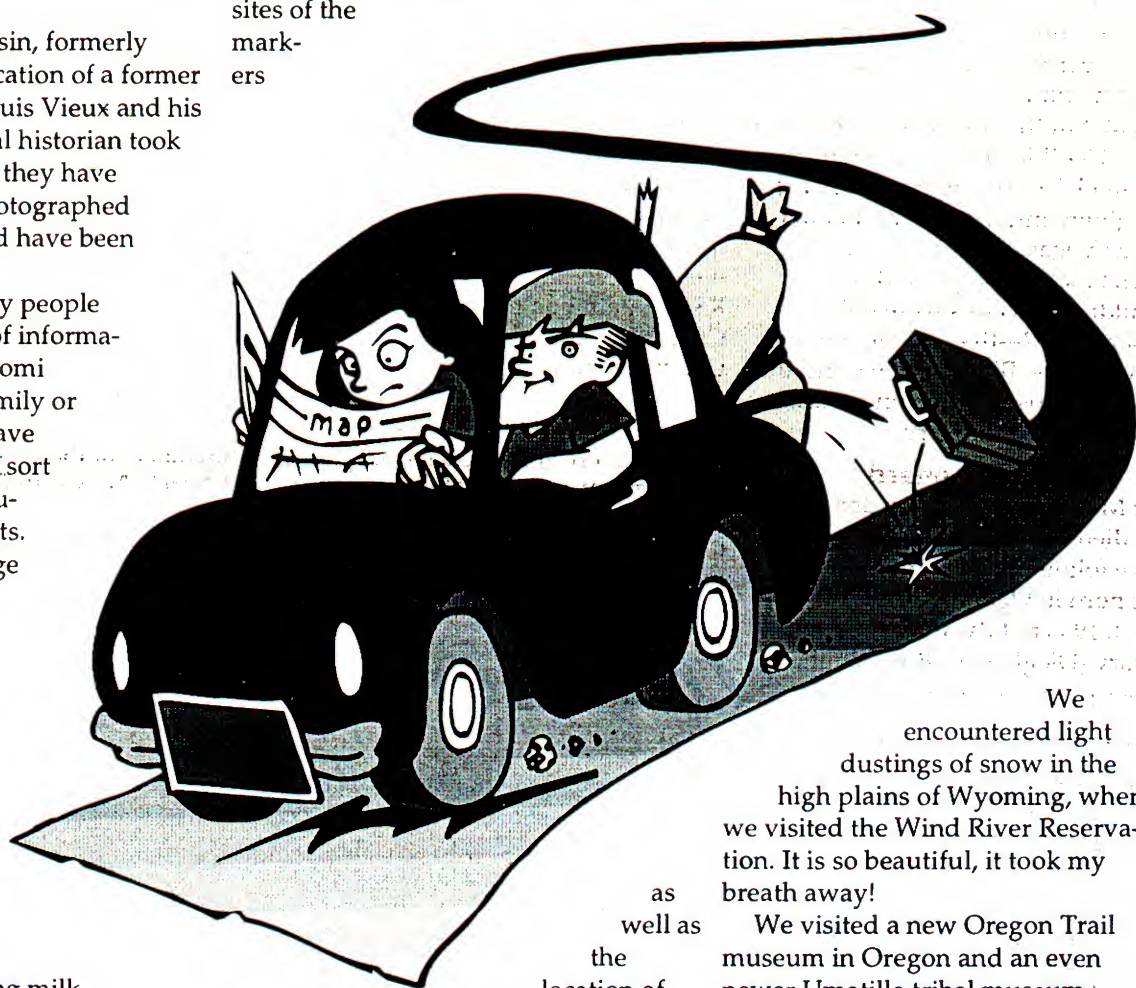
Then there was the Trail of Death caravan, 12 days of heat and humidity, laughter and tears, warm welcomes, and an instance of outright prejudice. We were honored to have the involvement of four bands of Potawatomi this year: the Pokagon Band, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band, the Prairie Band, and the Citizen Nation.

Along the Trail, participants spoke to 12 different school groups, dedicated eight new markers honoring the Potawatomi who were forcibly removed from Indiana to Kansas, and met people willing to sponsor new markers. We did GPS readings for the sites of the markers

remembered and their stories will be carried into the future.

After a summer learning about my Vieux family, it was devastating to arrive in Kansas and learn of the destruction of the Vieux cemetery. We met with detectives, reporters, groundskeepers, and another historical society. Then, we walked the eerily still land.

After that experience, it was time to turn homeward. We stopped in Denver to visit with Penny Bishop and her son John. We attended the Regional Meeting there.



We encountered light dustings of snow in the high plains of Wyoming, where we visited the Wind River Reservation. It is so beautiful, it took my breath away!

as well as the location of the actual trail.

The days began at 6:00 AM and often concluded with meetings or presentations in the evening; many nights we did not reach our campers until shortly before the 10:00 PM news. Most of our meal times were spent meeting with members of local historical societies, answering questions.

This year's trip concluded in St. Mary's, Kansas, where the citizens celebrated the 150th anniversary of the founding of their city and the Catholic mission to the Potawatomi. We were welcomed with special music written for our arrival and with dancing by Potawatomi youth. They explained, through their dance, that, although many of our Ancestors died as the result of Removal, their spirits live on and are

We visited a new Oregon Trail museum in Oregon and an even newer Umatilla tribal museum, offering their interpretation of the same trail, a few miles down the road. On November 7, we pulled into our driveway.

There were planned destinations we weren't able to reach—New Mexico and Arizona come to mind.

We put over 12,000 miles on the truck and arrived home exhausted. However, come summer I suspect that we will again hook up the camper, rev up the truck and head down the driveway. There are areas of the country we have yet to explore, pow wows we have yet to attend, skills we have yet to learn. And, more important, there are people we have yet to meet or would like to see again. See you soon!

Tribal internet provider upgrades for better service

As the pace of technological advances quickens, CPN-Net, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Internet access service, has announced a set of improvements. They will make the service even more responsive to subscribers' needs.

In order to provide better connection rates, fewer disconnects, and 56K modem access, CPN-Net has installed a new digital link to the Shawnee telephone company central office, as well as the required equipment at the CPN-Net site.

A dial-up telephone number change is required to provide this service. The new number is 405-273-3082; it replaces 405-878-4653. The old number remained in service through January 31, 1999 and ceased to be available at that time.

Users had to change their dial-up number before February 1, 1999 or they would not have been able to access the Internet through CPN-Net. As always, setup information and help, including the lead dial-up number, can be found at <http://www.CPN-Net.com/Support>.

Effective January 1, 1999, CPN-Net is officially supporting 56K dial-up connections. The new digital equipment is online and functioning through the PRI/T1 digital connection to the telephone company central office.

With the dial-up telephone number change, users with 56K modems should see connection rates above 33.6K. The digital equipment is v.90 compatible and supports both KFlex and X2 technology; all 56K modems should see better connection rates. Additionally, 33.6K and lower users may see higher connection rates as the digital connection removes the analog telephone line, from the telephone company to the CPN-Net site.



All CPN-Net users are provided 5MB of free web space to publish their own web pages. Until recently, the space was available but a documented process for publishing pages had not been published.

This process is now complete and users can publish their pages using most popular web editing programs that support FTP (File Transfer Protocol). Users can also download WS-FTP from the CPN-Net support page and publish web pages with it. More detailed information on publishing users' files in the server area is available at <http://www.CPN-Net.com/Support/Web>.

CPN-Net also announced its new YOURNews custom headline option, which is available free to all CPN-Net start page users. The YOURNews option allows the

user to select news headline sources for the categories of Arts and Entertainment, Business and Finance, Computers and Internet, Earth and Science, Health, Lifestyle, and Sports and Recreation.

Users customize the page by selecting the headline sources they want to use. Each time they visit a category's news page, they get the latest headlines from their selected sources. Users can visit YOURNews at <http://www.CPN-Net.com/Start/News/YOURNews>

For those who have wondered what companies or individuals are online in the Shawnee-Tecumseh area, CPN-Net's LocalLinks page is available. Here, users will find many LocalLinks to web sites from businesses and individuals in the central Oklahoma area.

Users can, also, add their own LocalLinks that might not be listed. They can view listings by Category, Site Name, or date entered. Go to <http://www.CPN-Net.com/Local> for the list.

As always, CPN-Net users' input is welcome on ways to improve the service, its dial-up connection, and its web site. Suggestions should be e-mailed to Webmaster@CPN-Net.com.

CPN-Net is dedicated to providing low cost, no frills, all connection Internet access to the Shawnee/Central Oklahoma geographical area. CPN-Net provides low cost net connections to Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members and surrounding citizens. It provides free access to Shawnee, Tecumseh, and Bethel K-12 active educators.

For people who live in the Central Oklahoma area code 405 and can dial the 273/275/878 or 214 prefixes without a long distance call, CPN-Net can provide a fast, low cost connection to the net without the overhead of other providers.

Potawatomi Art Contest

Enrolled Citizen Potawatomi artists are encouraged to enter the 1999 art competitions to be conducted at each Regional Council meeting. Artists must bring their work to their individual Regional Council Meeting to be shown or make arrangements for the work to be shown and returned to them safely. Regional competition prizes are: \$150 First Prize, \$100 Second Prize, and \$50 Third Prize.

Please contact your Regional Director if you wish to enter your work at your Regional Council Meeting. There is no entry fee for regional competitions.

Each artist is limited to three entries.

Artists who win first, second and third prize will advance to enter a second round of competition.

Those not represented by Regional Directors or Regional Areas:

Tribal members not represented by a Regional Director should write for applications in order to enter a Regional Competition in Oklahoma. Winners of the competition in Shawnee are then eligible for entry to the Oklahoma Regional Grand Prize Art Competition.

Second Round Grand Prize Competitions

The following instructions are for winners of Regional Competitions, who will be judged the first week of June 1999: Submit 35 mm slides in standard mounts (no glass mounts), with one slide for each one-dimensional piece and two or three slides for each three-dimensional piece (one detail shot).

Slides should be labeled with the artist's name, title of the work, date competed, media and dimension (HxWxD). A self-addressed stamped envelope for return must accompany the slides. Entries must have been completed within the past two years and all entries must be the work of the artists (Regional & Second Competition). Acceptance and awards are at the discretion of the juror.

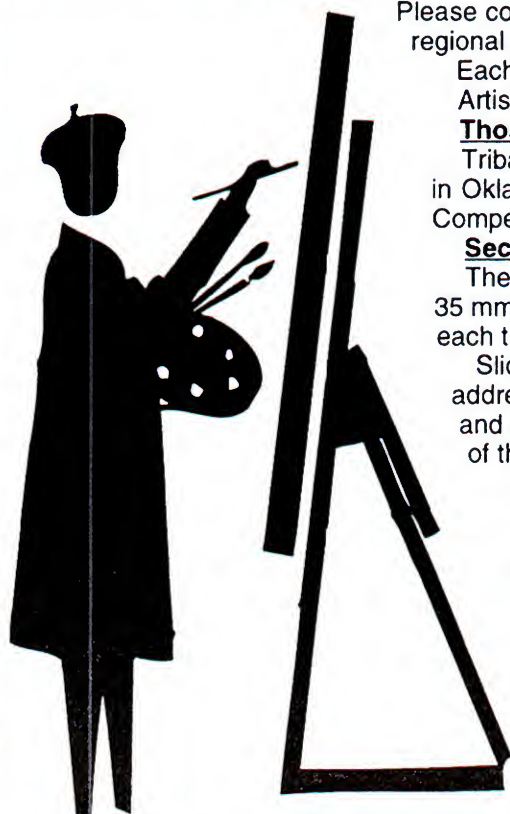
First prize will be \$300, second \$200, and third \$100.

Artist will be notified by mail as soon as the competition judging is completed.

On May 30th those individuals with entries at Regional Council Meeting in Kansas City must have all required information and materials in the hands of your Regional Director in order for it to be submitted for final competition. Send no actual art work, only slides and other requirements. (Winners of Kansas Regional Competition will be judged and announced at Kansas Council.)

DEADLINE for Second Round Art Competition applications and other required information is Wednesday, June 2, 1999.

First place winners of the Second Round Grand Prize Art Competition will be brought to Shawnee for the 1999 Potawatomi General Council and Pow-Wow. Winning art work will be shown at that time. For More Information, contact: **Citizen Potawatomi Nation-Art Competition, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801, Attn: Norman Kiker, phone 1-800-880-9880.**



Sentencing panel brings task to CPN headquarters

By MICHAEL DODSON

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has played host to an important local meeting set up to begin designing local programs for dealing with offenders who are to pay their debt to society in a community program.

The Nation was the site for the December meeting of the Pottawatomie/Lincoln County Community Sentencing Planning Council. Shirl Eastep, the Nation's Human Resources Director, is a member of the Council.

Sen. Dick Wilkerson (Dem.-Atwood) told the Planning Council that legislation that would amend a "Truth-in-Sentencing" law enacted in the 1997 session of the Oklahoma legislature is still "a work in progress."

Truth-in-Sentencing was among the hottest issues of the 1997 and 1998 Oklahoma legislative sessions. Prosecutors and others are calling for changes in what the legislature enacted. They claim that grids, which set out sentences for specific crimes, are confusing. They are also worried that the prescribed sentences are not tough enough in many instances.

However, many lawmakers fear that prescribing standard sentences, removing discretion from prosecutors, judges, and juries, will fill state prisons and keep them full, bringing on a need for costly prison construction.

In a short special legislative session in 1998, lawmakers simply delayed implementation of "Truth-in-Sentencing" for one year.

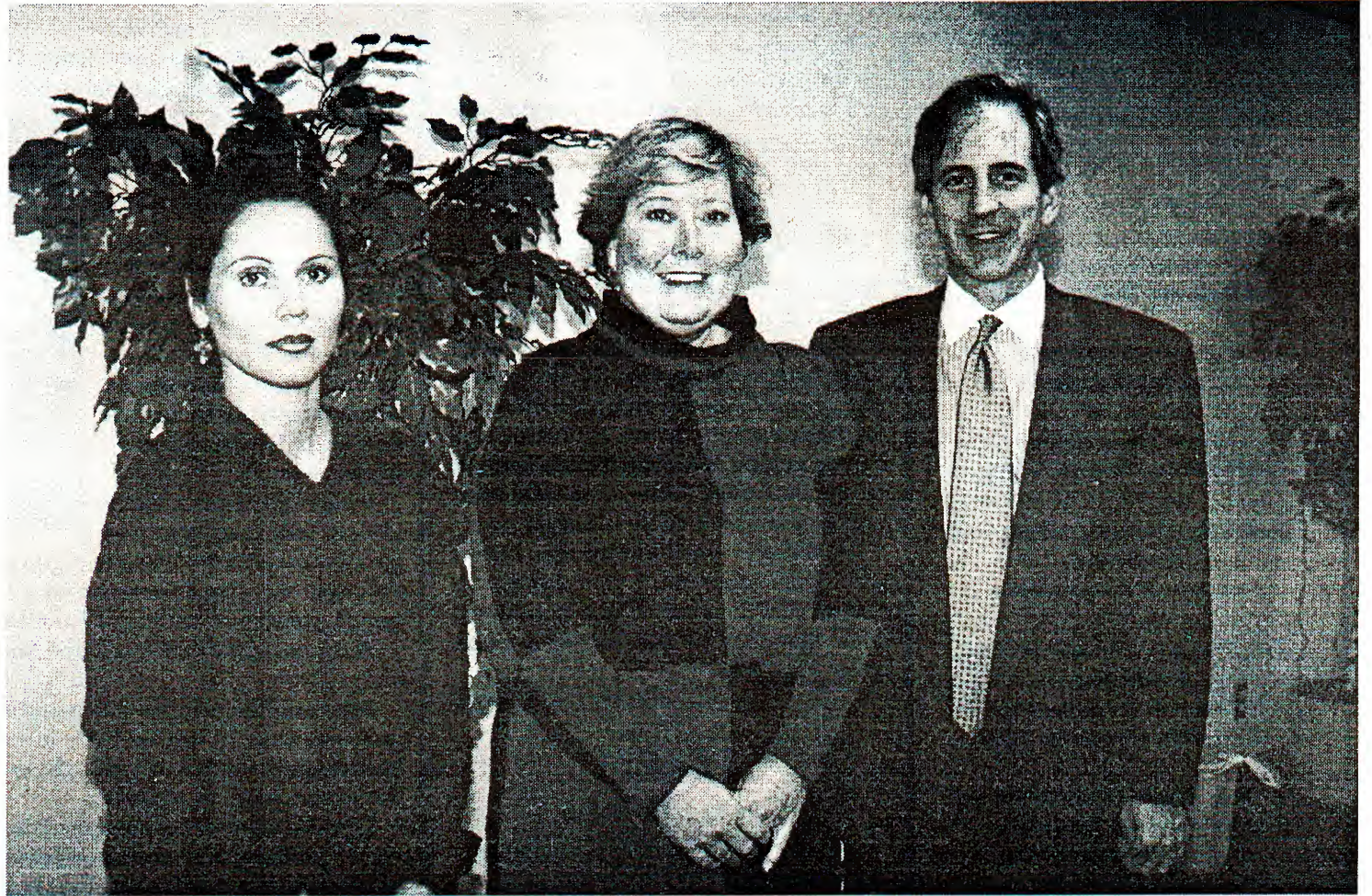
"It is a work in progress," Sen. Wilkerson said, referring to bills to deal with the situation in the 1999 session, which began in early February. "To tell you what the is going to be the ultimate result of that, I don't think I can."

Sen. Wilkerson told Planning Council members that "government in general" has historically perpetrated a fraud on citizens when convicted criminals have been sentenced to specific terms in prison. "In the past, we have sentenced people to X number of years with no expectation that that will be served," the senator explained. "I mean, the ludicrous aspect of sentencing somebody to the penitentiary for 1,500 years is just ridiculous."

Sen. Wilkerson also labeled the sentence of "life without the possibility of parole" a fraud. "That is a reaction to the citizenry's realization that people who were sentenced to life were out (of prison) in a very short period of time in some cases."

The senator saw that as a typical example of government's tendency to create policy based on exceptions to the rule, rather than determining what is the best overall policy.

According to Sen. Wilkerson, the prevailing mood to get tougher on crime through longer sentences could force the



Shirl Eastep, CPN Director of Human Resources (Left) With Rep. Jari Askins (Center) And Vic Bird, Attorney General's Office (Right)

Oklahoma government to begin developing behind-the-walls nursing homes. "These (convicted criminals) are not people who have taken care of themselves. Many of them are going to end up on dialysis (or needing other intense medical treatment). We have something more than 300 of these people (in Oklahoma prisons) now and are adding 30 to 50 per year. We're going to have to start building nursing homes."

Sen. Wilkerson told the Planning Council he had one concern when the concept of Truth-in-Sentencing surfaced. "My fear was that we would create a system that is so rigid that, in those situations where common sense, good management, and justice required us to do something different, it would be so inflexible that we couldn't do anything."

The Planning Council was set up to assist with the effort to deal with some non-violent offenders in ways other than incarceration. According to Sen. Wilkerson, that effort is wise and good-hearted, both from the standpoint of conserving tax dollars and of salvaging human beings who can become contributing citizens.

Sen. Wilkerson and Rep. Jari Askins (Dem.-Duncan) told the panel that, to a large extent, the Oklahoma prison-overcrowding crisis has been alleviated. Rep. Askins explained that using recently constructed private prisons has helped tremendously.

"Give or take a few people, right now



Rep. Askins (Left) Listens At Sen. Dick Wilkerson Makes A Point

we have more than 4,500 offenders in private prison beds in Oklahoma," Askins said. "That has allowed the Department of Corrections to re-assess inmates' security levels, to move them into stricter, more appropriate classifications."

As this happened, it has freed a large number of slots in community corrections and minimum-security facilities around the state.

Sen. Wilkerson pointed out that about

90% of offenders who receive suspended and deferred sentences do not commit another crime: "If you can begin dealing with that 10%, and they don't re-offend, then, long-term, it's going to be a significant help in dealing with prison crowding."

Corrections Department estimates are that the state prison system population will increase by just 90 in 1999. The annual increase has been in the 600 range in recent years.

POETRY CORNER

The Dream Was Just a Blur

Patsy Cooper, 1998

How devastating you see,
But mostly they're blind.

The ones who dream
And don't succeed,

Their cry is silent,
And nobody seems to care.

The deadly force grips them with
no escape,
And then devours within.

The blur is reality and time is
fading fast,
What will they choose?
The dream was of the past.

The only one to rescue is above,
If so they will be free, just as a
dove.

Whether they be weak or strong,
It doesn't matter anymore,
No matter what was dreamed,
When they are...no more

(Editor's note: Patsy Cooper is a student in the Adult Continuing Education Program, which is offered through a co-operative venture of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and St. Gregory's University. In Patsy's Business Communication class, the students were assigned a big project in which they were to write about a change they would like to make in the world. Patsy's group consisted of Teresa Vieux and Tish Shields. The topic they chose was "The Barriers for Native Americans in Higher Education". Ms. Cooper's part was to research the barriers that result from substance abuse. In that process, she wrote this poem. Ms. Vieux wrote on solutions to the barriers. Ms. Shields wrote about cultural conflict.)

During the last fall feast we had at the pow wow grounds, I gave a young man (tribal member) an eagle feather that was given to me several years ago. The elder who gave it to me told me that some day I would know what to do with this or who to give it to.

I met this young man and we got to visiting and I listened to him as he shared with us how he wanted to learn about the traditional ways and to be a part of everything here in Oklahoma. He also shared about how he was discouraged about coming back because of the trouble he was having getting here from North Carolina. He almost turned around and went back, but he said he felt he should come on.

He did and when I heard this, I knew who I was supposed to give this special feather to. His name is John Rhodd and since that time he has written a poem about "The Fan."

— Esther Lily Lowden

The Fan

I am an eagle feather
A feather all alone
I'm grasped tightly
By the warrior and
gently by the princess.
I am the protector
of my bearers.
I walk on the winds
But I do not walk alone.
I carry the dreams and
Prayers of my people.
I am an eagle feather.

— John Rhodd

Don't Forget!
HowNiKan
Deadline Is
The 5th Of
The Month!

ELDER OF THE MONTH: BETTY MOELK

By DENNETTE BRAND

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Title VI program, whose purpose is to assist in meeting the nutritional and socialization needs of Native American Elders, has named Betty Moelk "Elder of the Month" for January 1999.

Betty Moelk is a Potawatomi Nation tribal member; she is a descendant of the Tasier family. Betty was born in Gaddy, OK and has resided in Pottawatomie County for 61 years. She attended Bethel Schools. A widow, Betty cared for her brother for 17 years before he passed away.

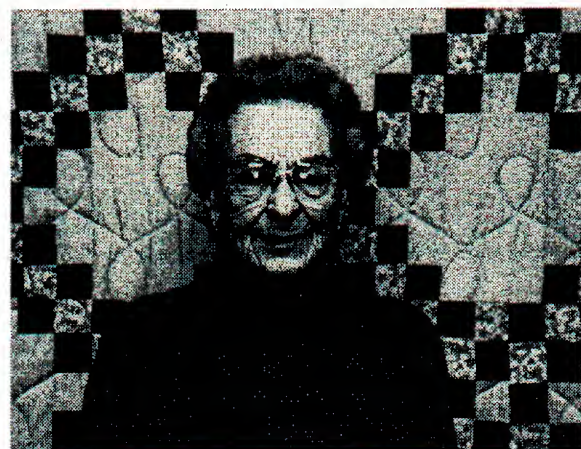
In her spare time, Betty likes to take road trips and go out to eat with the Title VI program participants. When asked about the Elders Program, she said, "Coming to the Title VI program is my favorite thing, the companionship — without it I wouldn't have anything."

Betty also enjoys being at home, because she "can do what I want when I want to."

Betty calls Bingo for the elders and enjoys the friends she has made through the program. Once in awhile, Betty leaves notes to servers at various restaurants, because she feels they have a right to know when a customer is not happy with the service, food, or whatever.

Denise Lackey, Director of the Title VI Program, said, "Betty is good-natured, easy to get along with, and fun to have around. She participates in all that the Title VI program has to offer. Mostly, I enjoy picking on her."

If you would like to know more about the Elders Program, contact Denise Lackey at (405) 878-4833.



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Original allotment book comes back to tribe

By MICHAEL DODSON

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has received a rare volume of records from the Pottawatomie County Historical Society in Shawnee, Oklahoma. At the same time, the Nation donated \$5,000 to the Historical Society and gave a computer system to the Society's Santa Fe Depot Museum.

"This book, Volume I, contains many of the Citizen Potawatomi allotment records recorded by an Act of Congress of March 3, 1891. These records correspond to the 1887 Allotment Rolls," said Lisa Kraft, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Museum Curator.

According to Kraft, the allotment records were deposited with the General Land Office of the United States a few days before the Land Run of September 1891, which opened up the remaining portion of the Potawatomi Reservation to white settlement.

Although the records were not filed until September of 1895, with some not being filed until 1912, it is believed the records were written between 1892 and 1894.

The book of records will be placed in the tribal safe with the original allotment rolls until pow wow weekend this year. At that time, they will be placed on exhibit in the tribal headquarters. Copies of the original allotment rolls can be purchased from the tribal archives at a cost of \$50.00.

According to Lynn Wylie, Santa Fe Museum Director, "The Indian Allotment Record Book was rescued from the Pottawatomie County Court House in 1987 by Laquita Hackett. She then turned it over to the Historical Society," Wylie added. "When I say, 'rescued,' I mean that it was going to be given to whomever showed any interest in it, as all the old document books were being removed from the county courthouse."

The Historical Society took charge of the book so that it would not fall into the hands of someone who simply did not realize its historical value. "Indeed," said Wylie, "there was one group that wanted this valuable document merely for the 'scrap paper' from it."

The Historical Society added the Allotment Book to its collection at the Santa Fe Depot Museum. There, it was carefully stored in its own drawer in the museum office.

In 1997, the book was brought out. Helen Schnieter of the Historical Society made a typewritten copy of the book. It was because of this that the book came to the attention of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

"After learning of the high quality archival facilities operated by the Potawatomi, the Historical Society was pleased to turn over ownership of this remarkable book," said Wylie.

The Indian Allotment Record Book, Volume I, was formally handed over to Citizen Potawatomi Nation Chairman John 'Rocky' Barrett on January 12, 1999.

"The Historical Society is also pleased, to say the least, with the new computer system donated to the Santa Fe Depot Museum by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation," Wylie said. "This computer has helped bring the museum staff into the modern era. It gives us access to the Internet, thus providing a source of research materials and information we did not have."

The computer will also allow the museum to network with other museums around the world, keeping the staff up-to-date on the latest news and resources. Moreover, it will enable Wylie to do the museum's work at its office, rather than taking it home.

"For this," Wylie said, "the Santa Fe Depot Museum staff feels that there are not enough words with which to thank the Citizen Potawatomi Nation."

The Historical Society plans to use the \$5,000 Potawatomi Nation gift to improve its services to the community, improve the museum's displays, and improve the programs it offers to the community.

Plans are being made for a joint Santa Fe Depot Museum/Potawatomi Tribal Museum tour during Potawatomi Nation pow wow weekend. The pow wow is scheduled for June 25, 26, and 27, 1999.

Among the Santa Fe Depot's collections are many items that are relevant to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. They include photographs of early-day Shawnee, Benson Park, tribal members, and an exhibit featuring Mary Bourbonnais' buckskin wedding gown.



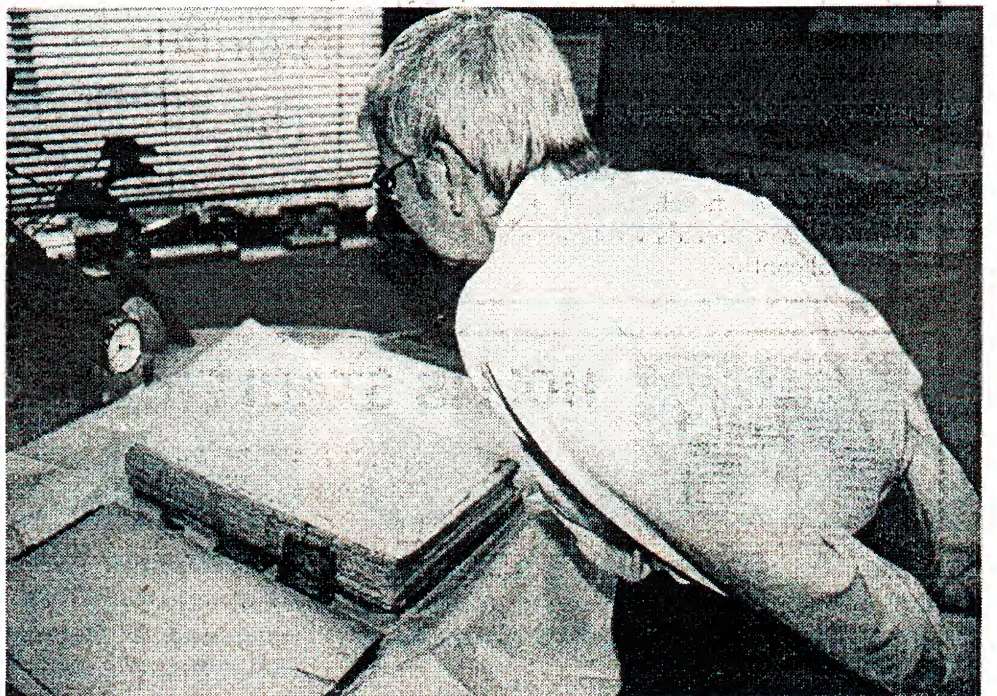
A Page From The Original Book



Chairman Barrett, Right, Accepts Book From Lynn Wylie



Wylie Works At The Computer The Nation Donated

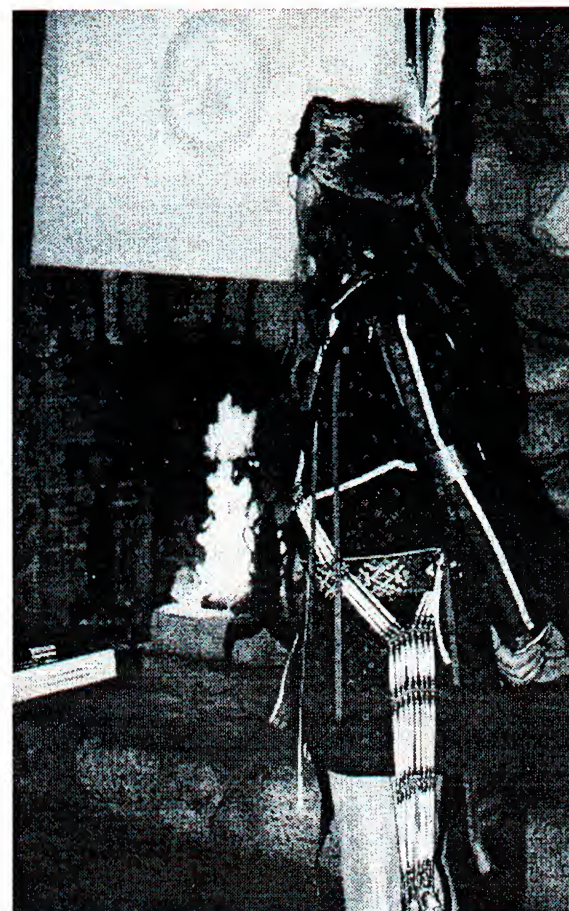


Mary Farrell Examines The Allotment Book

Southern California



Gary Sulcer, A Potawatomi who performs at Knott's Berry Farm, played the flute for Regional Meeting participants.



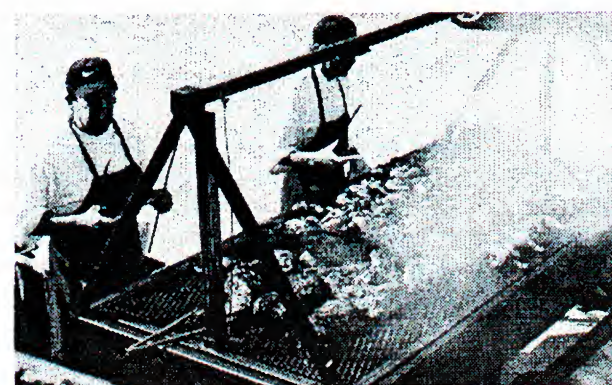
Regional Coordinator Jeremy Finch pauses by the fire.



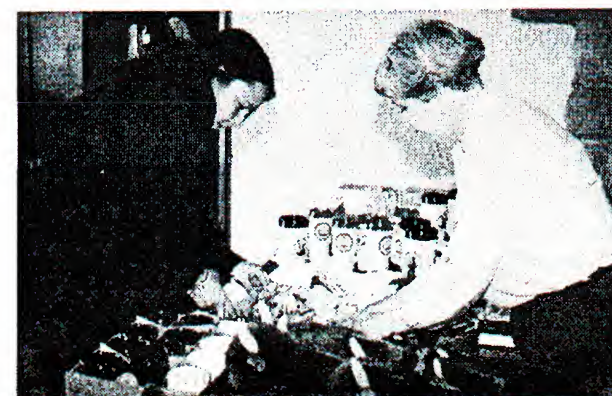
Chairman Barrett presents a gift to Loretta Peltier, 87, who tied for "wisest" present at the Regional Council meeting. She was born Dec. 26, 1911.



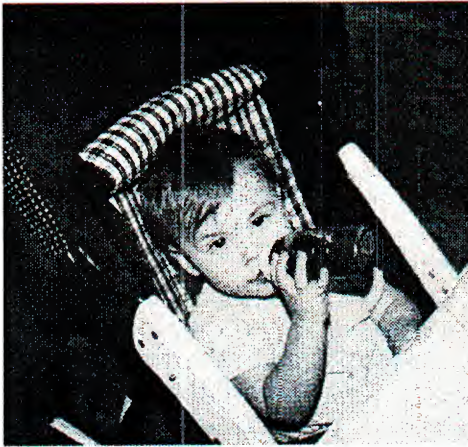
Bob Whistler, wisest member at the Regional Council by only a few months, receives a gift from Chairman John Barrett. His birthday is June 5, 1911.



Above: Cooks prepare part of the delicious meal. Below, Accounting Director Carolyn Sullivan, right, helps a customer at the traveling museum store.



Regional Council



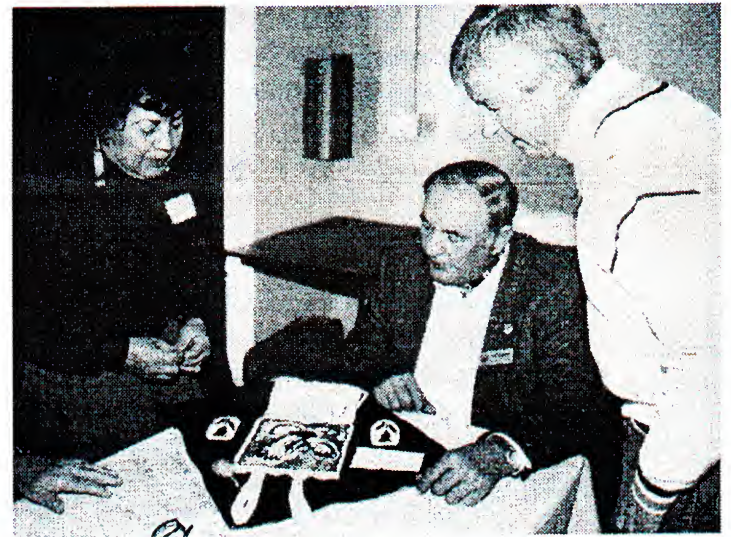
Youngest tribal member present was Amber Elizabeth Simes, great-grandniece of Bob Whistler. She is five and a half months old.

Jan. 16, 1999
American Legion
Pasadena, California



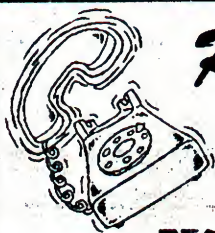
Four generations of the Bob Whistler family gather around the drum. Family reunions like this are highlights of Regional Councils.

Committeemen J.P. Motley, center, and Gene Bruno, right, admire beadwork by Florene Foster, left. She presented the beautiful piece to Motley, who is a relative of hers.



Vice Chairman Linda Capps, at left in each of the three photos below, congratulates the winners of the Regional Art Contest: at left, Jeremy Finch with his beaded bag which won first place; center, Connie Simes with her "Shadow Portrait" which placed third; and right, David Miller with his piece titled "Jimmy Growing Horn Phoning Ahead," which placed second.





Regional Office Directory

REGION 1 - OREGON/IDAHO

REGION 2 - WASHINGTON

(INCLUDES ALASKA & HAWAII)

Roscoe "Rocky" Baptiste

Box 346, 525 Ivy Ave., Gervais, OR 97026
Local (503) 792-3744 • FAX (503) 792-3744
Toll-Free (800) 522-3744
e-mail: Region01@Potawatomi.org

REGION 3 - NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jennifer J. Porter

5033 Vannoy Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546
Local (510) 886-4195 • Toll-Free (800) 874-8585
e-mail: Region03@Potawatomi.org

REGION 4 - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jeremy Bertrand Finch

203 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, CA 91105
Local (626) 403-0930 • FAX (800) 432-2008
e-mail: Region04@Potawatomi.org

REGION 5 - SOUTHWEST

(INCLUDES ARIZONA & WESTERN NEW MEXICO)

Philonise Williams

20415 N. 29th St., Phoenix, AZ 85024
Local (602) 569-3073 • FAX (602) 569-6935
Toll-Free (800) 452-8966
e-mail: Region05@Potawatomi.org

REGION 6 - COLORADO

(INCLUDES MONTANA, UTAH, WYOMING,
WESTERN NEBRASKA, WESTERN KANSAS)

Penny Bishop

90 Meade Lane, Englewood, CO 80110
Local (303) 761-7021 • FAX (303) 761-1660
Toll-Free (800) 531-1140
e-mail: Region06@Potawatomi.org

REGION 7 - NORTHERN TEXAS

(INCLUDES EASTERN NEW MEXICO)

Marjorie Hobdy

3132 Kathy Lane, Irving, TX 75060
Local (972) 790-3075 • Toll-Free (800) 742-3075
e-mail: Region07@Potawatomi.org

REGION 8 - SOUTHERN TEXAS

Lu Ellis

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Local (281) 356-7957 • Toll-Free (800) 272-7957
e-mail: Region08@Potawatomi.org

REGION 9 - MIDWEST

(INCLUDES EASTERN NEBRASKA & EASTERN KANSAS)

Maryann Bell

12516 Askew Dr., Grandview, MO 64030
Local (816) 761-2333 • Toll-Free (800) 325-6639
e-mail: Region09@Potawatomi.org

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is divided into different "Regional Offices" to help cover the extended membership across the nation. Originally labeled merely by region names, regional boundaries were established in late 1997 using the US Postal Service "3 digit" zip code areas. Region "0" is generally considered Oklahoma while the other states that are not numbered currently do not have an official "Region" designator.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Oregon/Washington/Idaho

Bozho Nicon,

Well this old year has gotten off to a big start. I am looking forward to spring and see if that old ground hog sees his shadow this year. If we can keep him in his hole until after Feb. 2, we will have good weather in February.

I NEED TO REMIND EVERYONE THAT OUR REGIONAL MEETING WILL BE APRIL 24 this year. The time and place will be coming to you as soon as possible.

I would like to tell you about a very fine youth treatment center we have here in Salem, Oregon. The information has been taken from the Smoke Signals newspaper (put out by the Grand Ronde Tribe) and they also run the center. It is called Nanitch Sahallie, and is nearing its tenth year of helping Native teens between the ages of 13 and 17 overcome chemical dependency. The residential facility is one of only eight in the nation offering one-on-one counseling, peer support groups, interim school courses and what Nanitch staff calls "culturally specific" treatment.

About 23 percent of the nation's Indian youth between ages 12 and 17 reported using illegal drugs such as marijuana, inhalants or hallucinogens within the past year. This was the highest rate for 11 racial ethnic groups surveyed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1991 to 1993.

While there was not enough

reliable data on alcohol use for this age group, 1.3 percent of the youth reportedly needed chemical dependency treatment.

But Nanitch Acting Division Manager Candi Henry says statistics do not tell the whole story. "Very few people are not touched by alcoholism," she says. "And numbers can't even begin to reflect the impact of alcohol and drug abuse on Native American people."

Henry believes this is due, in part, to the historical assault against Indian culture and spirituality. She says just as Native America is reeling from the effects of this assault seven generations later, it may take another seven generations of hard work to reverse the process. "We try to teach kids pride in their language, culture and traditional tribal practices. And to have pride in themselves," says Henry. "Without it, recovery is difficult. Without pride, hope is truly far away."

Nanitch is unique because it is administered by the Grand Ronde Tribe, run by a mostly Native American staff and funded with federal and state dollars. The program also alternates between all male and all female sessions. Teens from 47 different tribes benefitted from Nanitch's services in the last year, drawing Native youth from all over including Arizona, Montana, Idaho and even Canada. The state subsidy also allows for limited reserved

spaces for local youth of any ethnic background.

But what makes the program truly unique is its emphasis on Native American culture. In addition to learning about issues such as drug and alcohol dependency, anger management and how to say no to peer pressure, teens are also schooled in spiritual and cultural values. Nanitch staff says chemical abuse is not the only hurdle the youths have to clear. They don't think chemical addiction is always the primary problem; often teens are using drugs or alcohol to deal with grief, depression, physical or emotional apse, low self-esteem or abandonment.

The program also includes in their eight weeks, a family component. During the last week of the session youth's parents join them for a five-day residential program. Parents are introduced to family support groups available in their local area, taught how to recognize signs of relapse and co-dependency and also receive family counseling.

I hope none of you will ever have need for their services, but I thought you might like to know we do have these services and this fine facility available to us here locally.

Until we talk again, remember the 800-522-3744 number. Call me if I can answer any questions or help in any way.

Bama pi she anwe,

— Rocky Baptiste

Midwest

Greetings from Kansas City,

Things have been somewhat quiet lately. It usually gets that way around the holidays. I hope everyone had many happy memories of the holiday season.

As far as the plans for the building of the Midwest regional office, things have been somewhat on hold. Hopefully the project will be in the making again real soon.

I've been "surfing the web" a little bit lately. There are a lot of

great Native American pages and websites that contain wonderful information. If you get a chance, browse around a while and see what you can find. Our own Susan Campbell has a great website to share with everyone. It is at nokmis@yahoo.com. And Jack Woolridge's site is at jackpot@cruzio.com. Don't forget to view our own website. We have a lot of great stuff to look at. There are many, many others to choose from also. Take

your time and have fun!

Our Kansas City Midwest regional meeting will be coming up in May. It will be here before we know it. I look forward to seeing everyone again. Make your plans now to attend. Don't forget about the Potawatomi contest. I know there are a lot of very talented Potawatomis out there. It's not too early to be getting ready for this. Take care my brothers and sisters!

— Maryann Bell

REGIONAL REPORTS

Southern California

Bourzho from Pasadena!

I have just returned from our Regional Council Meeting, exhausted, but very, very proud. As always, it was a pleasure visiting with the Business Committee, and a pleasure to see them enjoying our warm, sunny weather.

The meeting went well, thanks to Shamnido, and the heroic efforts of my beloved wife and partner, Mardesia. As I mentioned during the meeting, she's the one who keeps it all together for me. For instance, when I "dress out" in my regalia, it takes time — a lot of time. And I usually get a late start. So, when I find myself spinning in circles, demanding to know where my feathers are, she is inevitably standing there, calmly holding them out to me. What a blessing she is to me and to our children. Thank you, dear.

And speaking of kids, my boys were great! Both Caleb and Ellis entered beadwork in the art contest. They didn't win, and they didn't grouse about it, either. "Hey, there's always next time," was their attitude. Caleb immediately set about designing his next beading project, which is a pair of cuffs for my regalia to match the belt I acquired on the rez in Kansas a few years ago.

Those of you who were at the regional — did you see how well our daughter Julia is walking? Remember: she's a candidate for Potawatomi Pow Wow Princess in 2016. We should be ready by then ...

Heyyyyyy!! — **Big Announcement:** Blessings and honors to Florence Foster! Hoka hey! Flo, a valued and honored tribal member from the Southern California Region, has been named Head Lady Dancer of our annual pow wow back home! Now, let's all get out there and support her as she honors us all next June in Shawnee.

One of the new features I included at the regional meeting this year was the laptop computer left out so tribal members could register their comments during the meeting. Here they are:

"I am touched by my family by attending. How special it is to be a woman born of the Potawatomi Nation."

"Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the Potawatomi Tribe, it is an honor being in the hands of a strong, intelligent nation."

"This was a great meeting. Loved the slide show! Please bring more traditional items from your store! Food was really good."

"Thanks for a great meeting. It was really wonderful that my husband (G. David Miller) won an award too!" (Isuzanne Miller, Pomona, CA)

It was truly great to get so much verbal feedback during the meeting, too. Among the suggestions I got was a request for some regional picnics between annual regional meetings. Anyone out there interested? We tried this a few years ago, and the idea died a quiet death. Will it rise, phoenix-like, from the proverbial ashes? Stay tuned ...

Finally, I want to thank our Potawatomi dancer, Gary Sulcer. Wow, was his hoop dance exciting! And he plays flute beautifully, too. His friends, traditional dancer Rodney Howard and singer Tom Luna were also gracious and welcome guests who added so much to our meeting. Megwetch!

From the looks of it, Gary, his lovely wife Rosie, and their beautiful daughter, Kayla, will be at pow wow in June. Watch for him, and say heyyyyy, I know who you are ...

On a more serious note, I just got in some booklets entitled "Indian Children and Child Abuse," Questions and Answers about Child Protective Services for Indian Children. If you would like to receive one, let me know.

Until next month, be well and keep your families safe. Strengthened by the knowledge of our history, may each of your hearts be filled with reverence for those who came before, whose countless moccasins marked the path so clearly for us; with love for our brothers and sisters who walk this path at our side; and with hope for those who will follow, even to the seventh generation.

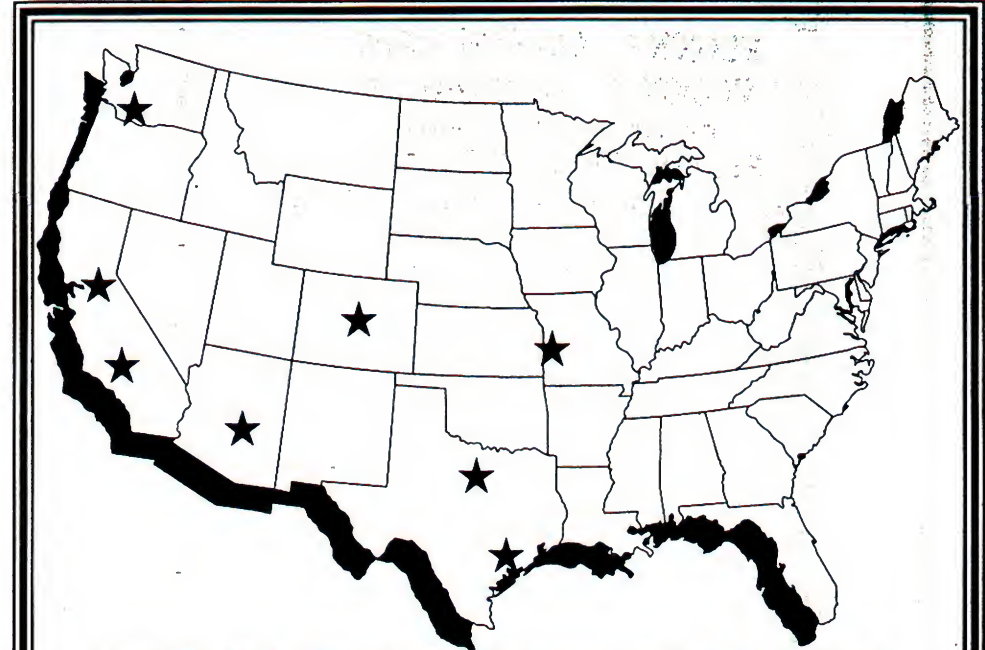
— Jeremy Bertrand Finch

South Texas

Bosho Chi ye'k (Hello all of you), Mno bmaes ne, ngom? (How are you feeling today?),

Things are very good in these woods. The children came home for a while, we played with the babies, ate too much food and had a good visit. Now they are all safely back in their own homes, and back to work and school.

This brings me to the next thing we shall address. The Council Meeting here in Houston will be March 20, 1999. I hope all of you are making plans to be here for that event. And, I hope, you shall take the time to call me, let me know what you would like to do at the meeting, and how you would like to help make it happen.



1998-99 Regional Council Schedule

Denver	Oct. 1, 1998
Dallas	Nov. 7, 1998
Southern California	Jan. 16, 1999
Phoenix	Feb. 6, 1999
Northern California	March 6, 1999
Houston	March 20, 1999
Seattle/Portland	April 24, 1999
Kansas City	May 15, 1999

Northern California

Bosho, niconi,

Ni je na?(How are you?)This phrase should be sinking in by now, eh? If you read it every month in the regional reports, it becomes familiar and comfortable. It sounds like knee (as on your leg), jay (like the bird), and na (as in nah, I don't want any). Okay ... enough for Lesson 1.

My focus right now is on our upcoming Regional Meeting on March 6th. You will be receiving your invitations and information at the beginning of February (probably as you read this). Please let me know if you don't get one so I can send one to you.

I'm putting out the call now for anyone who will be able to help with registration, children's activities, set-up and pack-up duties. Let me know what

you'd like to do and it'll be much appreciated.

The art contest information and forms are available now. Call me if you'd like to enter. This will help me also in setting up for your piece(s) of artwork. It was a great show last year. I hope many of you will come forward again.

Our regional meeting is a good time to catch up on tribal business affairs, meet people you may be related to, shop at the tribal store, and get more exposure to our cultural heritage. Bring the children and come enjoy the day. I look forward to seeing you again, and meeting those who come for the first time.

Good thoughts to all ...

— Jennifer J. Porter

It is a time for reflection, these first months in the new year, and a time for making plans, new beginnings.

I have been reviewing some of the language that I have been studying, and have added a few new words to my short vocabulary. I hope you are doing that also. I need some one to talk to!

If I don't hear from you, I have to

believe all is well in your world, and there have been no new events to rejoice or pray for. So be it.

Keep well,
Bama pi she anwe gwi kigdomen mine.

(Later on, okay, we will talk again.)

— Lu Ellis

Tribal members give each other holiday gift of language

By MICHAEL DODSON

(Magnolia, TX) – Citizen Potawatomi tribal member Lu Ellis and her children and grandchildren gave themselves a unique gift at Christmastime 1998. Ellis had the family gather at her home for an intense, five-day Potawatomi language and culture "academy".

Ellis brought in Don Perrot, a Prairie Band Potawatomi speaker from Escanabia, Michigan, to lead the daylong sessions. Mr. Perrot is a language and culture instructor at the Hannahville Charter School. A kindergarten-through-twelfth grade school, it is controlled and operated by the Hannahville Band of Potawatomi.

"They teach the traditional ABC's of education," Mr. Perrot said. "But they also offer the Potawatomi culture and language, as well."

"About two years ago, I was privileged enough to be included in the Potawatomi Scholars College, funded with grant money, to help with revitalization of our language and culture," Ellis told the *HowNiKan*. "Because of that wonderful opportunity, I got a chance to meet Mr. Perrot and found him to be an exemplary teacher and a very patient and kind elder."

"I have gained so much knowledge about what it means to be who we are as a people and what it means to be Potawatomi, Neshnabe, that I wanted my children to have an opportunity to meet this elder and study with him."

"We have been through basic greetings, simple conversations, we're learning to count, speak the words for the food as we sit at the table to eat," Ellis explained.

Perrot's willing students left with enough language knowledge to be able to converse with each other in Potawatomi, to help each other. "This makes it possible to remember what you've learned, when you use it every day."

At the same time, Perrot passed along information about Potawatomi culture. "Why we do things the way we do," is

the way Lu Ellis described the cultural instruction.

"When the kids in the classroom that I work with become excited about language, that's one of the most welcome things I can see," Mr. Perrot said. "I'm willing to sit there and work with those kids beyond class time, sit there and work with them on Saturdays and Sundays, if they have a need to."

Lou Ellis' family's desire to learn impressed Mr. Perrot, as the attitude of his eager students back in Michigan does, "These folks wanted something and I was able and willing to give it to them."

Mr. Perrot has advice for anyone who would like to master a second language, be it Potawatomi or any other tongue. "You have to develop your hearing and listening capabilities. You have to totally commit yourself," he explained.

"One of the first things I do is tell people, 'Listen to me. Listen to what I am saying so that you really hear the inflection, the intonation.'"

Mr. Perrot believes that those are the elements that will help the language student remember what he has learned.

He also believes in using modern technology, things such as audiotapes and CD-ROM-based presentations. "These are the things that can remind us so that we are then able to read."

The first thing Mr. Perrot teaches a new student is a vowel system. He helps the students fix the vowel sounds in their minds. "Once you commit that to memory, you can pretty well read anything that we would write down," he said.

At Lu Ellis' home, Mr. Perrot did not allow his students to look at any printed form of Potawatomi until they had committed the vowel sounds to memory. "I wanted to get them completely away from that," he explained. "I wanted them to just listen to what I was saying."

After just a single fifteen-minute lesson, several members of Lu Ellis' family were counting to ten in



Above, in a picture taken New Year's Day, are, from left, John Ellis; family friends Gary Wood, Rex Fremont, Eddie Pruitt; grandsons Adrian Jeffries, (Nadiya's oldest son), Shane Ellis, (John Robert's son), and the Ellis' son John Robert Ellis. At right, seated in the chair is Don Perrot. Clockwise in the circle are Nadiya Littlewarrior Davis and Vicki Crawford, the Ellis' daughters; Adrian Jeffries, Nadiya's oldest son; Sara Ellis, John Robert's daughter; Kathe Marconi, Vicki's daughter; and Lu Ellis. They are making prayer ties.



Potawatomi from memory.

Another key to making a little-used language, such as Potawatomi, vital again is to reach very young people. "Our focus has to be on youngsters in pre-school through fifth grade years," Mr. Perrot said. "The youngsters who pick up the language quickest are those in kindergarten through third grade."

Some public schools in areas where Native Americans comprise a significant portion of the enrollment are adding

Indian languages to their curricula. Mr. Perrot said that it would be a commendable thing for concerned Native Americans to request that their school officials add their languages to course rosters.

"As another alternative," Mr. Perrot suggested, "why don't the tribes come together to develop their own schools and their own school districts? Then, they will be able to teach what they want to teach."

Housing Authority receives 'flood of response' from tribal members

Citizen Potawatomi Nation members continue responding very positively to the Nation's efforts to make home ownership and other housing opportunities available.

"Announcement of the programs we have available to Potawatomi tribal members has brought a flood of response," said Robert Carlile, CPN Housing Authority Director. "We are pleased, both that we are able to help tribal members realize the American dream of home ownership or an improved dwelling and that so many tribal members are responding to our programs."

Carlile offered this overview of the programs that are now available to tribal members or will become available soon:

1. **97% Loan Program** – This program uses leveraged money, not federal funds that are available to the Nation through the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). Potawatomi tribal mem-

bers who live anywhere in Oklahoma are eligible for this program. These mortgages require a 3% down payment.

The CPN Housing Authority uses its own funds only to supplement the funds the homebuyer has from his own sources for closing costs.

2. **Down Payment/Closing Cost Loans:** This loan is for assistance with just the 97% Loan Program. A Potawatomi tribal member can use it only to cover the down payment and closing costs on a home purchase. The maximum loan is for \$7,000.00. The interest rate is 5%. The loan is to be paid off over five years.

This allows a prospective homebuyer to purchase a home with as little as 1% of the purchase price coming from his own funds. It will make home ownership a viable option for tribal members who can afford a monthly house payment but who do not have the funds to cover a down payment and closing costs.

3. **Down Payment/Closing Costs Assistance Grant:** All Citizen Potawatomi tribal members who live anywhere in the United States

and all enrolled Native Americans who live in the Nation's tribal jurisdiction area are eligible for these grants. The maximum grant amount is \$2125. This is an effort to help CPN tribal members who live outside the tribal jurisdiction and outside the state of Oklahoma. In addition, through offering the grants to other Native Americans who live within the CPN jurisdictional area, the Housing Authority is able to meet one of its housing plan objectives. That objective is to offer service to all Native Americans within the tribal jurisdiction.

4. **CPN HOME Program:** This grant is for very low-to-low income Native Americans. Citizen Potawatomi tribal members who have land within the tribal jurisdiction receive priority. Through this program, the Housing Authority provides a grant of as much as 50% of the value of the homebuyer's mortgage. The maximum grant amount is \$36,250 for a three-bedroom home and \$37,300 for a four-bedroom home.

5. **Rehabilitation/Home Improvement Program:** This program will begin in Spring

1999. This program will be available only within the Citizen Potawatomi Nation jurisdictional area.

6. **CPN Revolving Loan Fund:** This program will also begin in Spring 1999.

"The Housing Authority staff is busy piecing together details of the Rehab/Home Improvement and Revolving Loan Fund Programs," Carlile said. "As soon as the details are in place, we will announce them in the *HowNiKan*, other media outlets and through other means."

Carlile reminded prospective Housing Program clients that, to be eligible for these programs, they must have a completed housing application on file with the housing authority. To check housing application status, get an application or assistance completing one, or get other information about Citizen Potawatomi Nation housing programs, call Sherry Byers at 405-878-4819.



First National Bank's Jane Lauderdale and FNB Student Board member Brian Baxter present food items to the Salvation Army's Ann Currie.



Lee Deatherage and sons accept Christmas goodies from Debbie Montgomery.



Rosalie Grothaus of the Iowa Tribe (left) and Debbie Montgomery of the CPN Employment and Training Program present a Christmas basket to John Ramirez



Karen Vines and Anna Brown of Action Inc. and Kreten Norholm of Operation Christmas accept a check from George Teafatiller, Linda Capps And Hilton Melot Representing The Potawatomi Nation

Potawatomi Nation helps bring holiday happiness to needy

By DENNETTE BRAND

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's generosity and willingness to help were never more on display than during the 1998 Christmas season. The Nation and its members, elected officials, and employees were busy making this Christmas much more enjoyable for people for whom it could have been a bleak holiday.

On Tuesday, December 22, 1998, several Citizen Potawatomi Nation employees helped raise money for the Salvation Army by ringing the bell in front of the Post Office in downtown Shawnee. Temperatures were chilly, but the spirit of giving warmed the hearts of all who participated.

Tracy Haney, Child Protection Worker and Board member for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, asked tribal employees to help fill time slots for the entire day.

Haney received a great response; tribal employees kept the bell ringing from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Haney took

the first shift himself, ringing the bell from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m.

Haney passed the bell on to Linda Capps, Vice Chairman, and Hilton Melot, Committeeman. Tribal Chairman Rocky Barrett joined Capps and Melot.

Other employees who so graciously gave of their time are: Misty Roden, Amber Barnett, Janet Draper and her son Chad Draper, Jana Ross, Jack Meeks, Kayla Kellie, and Patti Pogue. They have the thanks of the entire Potawatomi Nation and everyone who benefits from the Salvation Army's services.

Meanwhile, a \$5,000 donation from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation helped to ensure a brighter, happier Christmas for more than 650 Shawnee-area families. Members of the Potawatomi Nation Business Committee presented a check to Pottawatomie County "Operation Christmas" leaders on December 22.

Chairman Barrett is grateful for the tribe's opportunity to lend a hand each year. "We are blessed with the opportu-

nity to operate several profitable businesses in this community," Barrett said. "Joining in sponsoring Operation Christmas is a most gratifying way to say 'Thank You!' to our friends and neighbors."

Bill Shields, Operation Christmas Coordinator, said, "Were it not for this effort (Operation Christmas), there are many people in Pottawatomie County who would not have enough to provide the bare necessities for a joyous Christmas. We give them some food. We give them some clothing. We have toys for the children."

Jimmie Hurst, of Action, Inc. and Charlotte Hughes, of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Operation Christmas Co-Chairmen, said that "the people we help are very happy to receive what we can offer them because, without us, they would have nowhere else to go."

"This donation from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation makes it possible to help these people," Hughes said. "We

always give away more gifts than we have taken in money to pay for. The Potawatomi Nation donation gets us back up to even each year."

Linda Capps, Gene Bruno, CPN Secretary-Treasurer, Hilton Melot and J.P. Motley, CPN Business Committeemen, and George Teafatiller, manager of the Nation's FireLake Entertainment Center, joined Chairman Barrett in making the donation presentation.

Other Christmastime donations went to deserving, appreciative families through the Nation's Employment and Training Program and the Student Board of Directors of its First National Bank and Trust Company. Employment and Training personnel gathered food baskets and distributed them.

Under the direction of Jane Lauderdale, First National Marketing Director, student board members also gathered staple food items. The students delivered these to the Salvation Army post in Shawnee.



LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Ahau Nishnabe'yek

There are many Potawatomi families represented in these photos. They include: the Vieuxes, Peltiers, Rhodds, Pecores, Weddles, Melots, Navarres, Batteses, Nadeaus, Dubois, Tasiers, Silases, Burnetts, Kadots, Curleys, Bourbonaises, and Schmidlkofers.

I hope I did not omit any families.

When you look at the pictures of the people eating, you might say that they look as though they are having a picnic. However, this Gathering is the time at which we come together to offer thanks for everything the Creator has made available for our survival and to pray for our people, our leaders, and the world in which we live.

When we gather for these prayers, it will be time for one of the seasonal ceremonies. It is called chibe'qwe'. It is time to start the sacred fire and to care for it and pray and give thanks as one people.

I hope you see someone in the photographs whom you know. Come, join in the prayers. Call if you have any questions - Norman Kiker at 800-880-9880.

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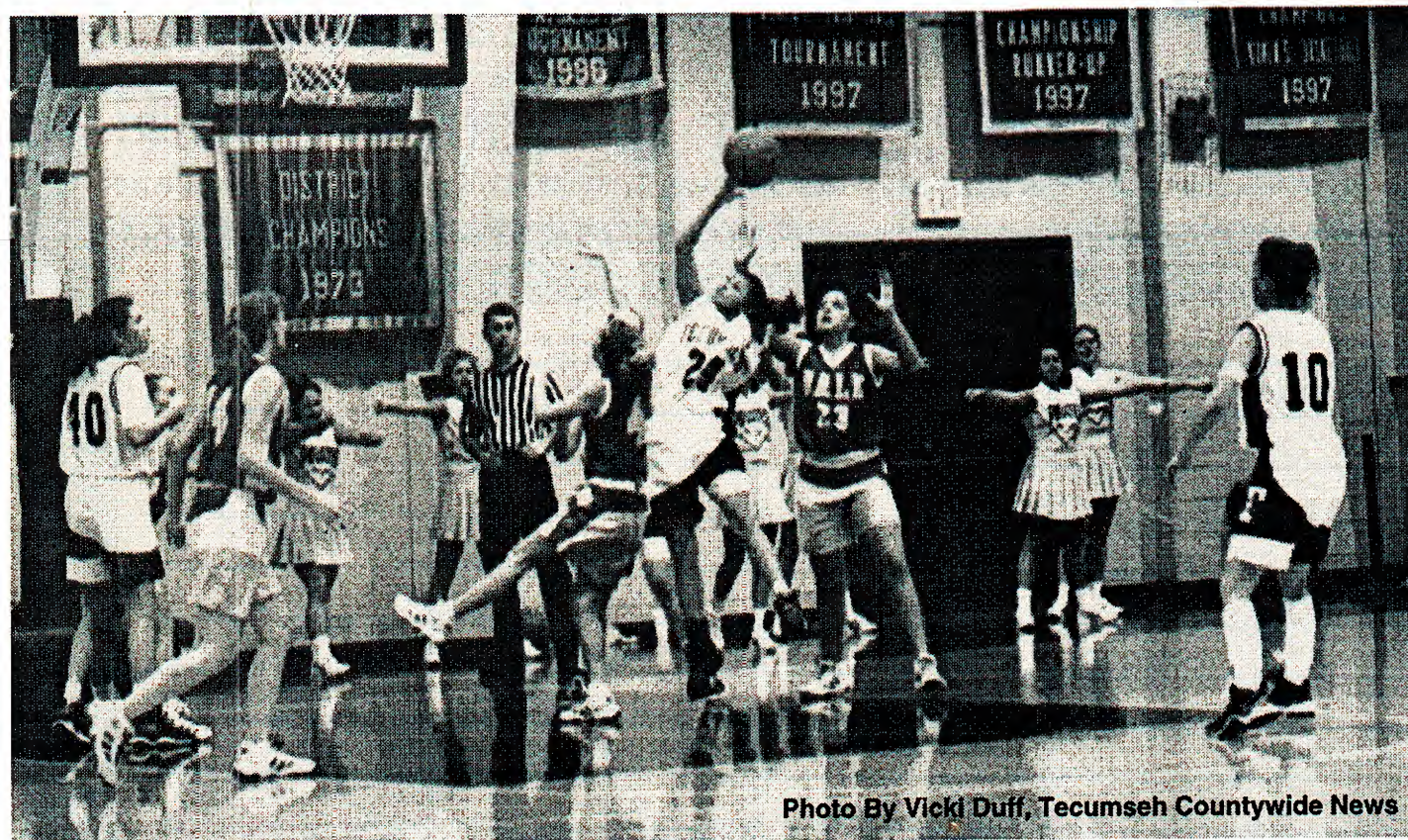


Photo By Vicki Duff, Tecumseh Countywide News



There was plenty of action in the annual Pott County Basketball Tournament Jan. 18-23, sponsored by the Nation's radio station, KGFF. At left, Tecumseh's girls battle Dale's girls, while at right KGFF's Mike Askins presents the boys' championship trophy to the Bethel Wildcats.

Radio station planning big home, garden show

Continued from page 1

January. It has been a tradition since 1928.

"KGFF's affiliation with the tournament began in the mid-1930s," Dodson said. "We are proud to continue this tradition."

Eighteen Pottawatomie County high school basketball teams, both boys and girls, played a total of 26 games at Oklahoma Baptist University's Noble Complex. "We provided play-by-play broadcasts of 16 of these games," Dodson said.

From February 19- 21, AM 1450 KGFF

will host its 9th annual Home and Garden Show at Shawnee Mall. "This is an opportunity for a wide variety of businesses, artisans, and craftspeople to reach a large audience," said Michael Askins, KGFF operations director.

KGFF is renting booth space for the event to exhibitors. "There is room for

75 to 85 exhibitors," Askins explained. "Typically, 30-to-35 thousand people visit the booths during the Home and Garden Show."

Anyone who wants a booth can call Geri Huston or Mike Askins at 405-273-4390.

New enterprise provides variety of services

Continued from page 1

new stepfather," Craig told the *HowNikan*. "We dropped everything and did everything we could to get those kids out of that situation."

The law firm's efforts were successful. That work included numerous trips to far-flung parts of Oklahoma. "After all of that, the two weeks of highly emotional work, the client came into our office. But, did he thank us? No. He was there to complain about his bill," Craig said.

Craig contrasts that with the reaction of people at the Oklahoma City Art Museum. "A few years ago, they hired us to refinish a statue. Along with payment for that work, the curator included a note that read, 'We love your work. The entire staff is pleased.'"

This caused Craig to think, "There has to be a better way to make a living."

Craig called his firm Enviro Pure Cleaning Services. He closed that company and brought his experience, reputation for quality work, equipment, em-



ployees, and contacts to the Potawatomi Nation this past summer, to manage the newly created Potawatomi Nation Industrial Services.

The Potawatomi firm recently completed a waterproofing job for Oklahoma Baptist University. "We caulked all the windows and put a sealer on the big Brotherhood dormitory, before they renamed it," Craig said.

The next goal for Potawatomi Nation Industrial Services is to obtain govern-

ment contracts, particularly to paint highway stripes. There is about \$15 billion worth of paint and related coatings manufactured in the United States each year.

About \$5 billion is spent each year to put stripes on long stretches of asphalt and concrete. Craig explained: "Governments at various levels — city, county, and state — buy about 90% of that highway-stripping paint. I sure want Potawatomi Nation Industrial Services to begin doing its share of that work."

Craig said that his top goals for the new company are to earn profits and provide jobs. "This doesn't get done by magic," he said. "It takes people to do it. We want to provide an opportunity to learn skills. Contrary to what a lot of people believe, doing painting right is a skilled trade."

"I have a crew that I have relied on to do this skilled work. They are all Native Americans, whom I hired through the tribe. I have been real proud of them."

The Potawatomi firm is available to contract out its painting, sandblasting, and other services to anyone who needs them.

"We can take care of anything from simple house paints to sophisticated technical coatings," says Craig.

Far from having gone for naught, Craig's Petroleum Engineering education has come into play in this second career. "Petroleum engineering is heavily weighted toward chemistry and fluid behavior. These are the key underlying physics principles in understanding coating systems, whether it's house paints, epoxies, or the new powder coatings."

Craig explained that it requires detailed, technical knowledge to understand what is happening in proper design and application of a coating system. "Coating systems are engineered, chemical assemblies that have to be made right and applied correctly. If you do that, you can produce some really good work."

Craig's wife Michelle is also a lawyer. They have two sons, Wade, 4, and Ryan, 2.

QTY	SIZE	DESCRIPTION OF MERCHANDISE	COLOR	PRICE	TOTAL
		Book - Keepers of the Fire		22.00	
		Book - Potawatomi of the West		11.00	
		Book - The Potawatomi		14.95	
		Book - Jim Thorpe		9.95	
		Seal Decal		.75	
		Tribal Seal Computer Mouse Pad		4.75	
		Leather Coasters		1.45	
		Leather Key Ring		1.35	
		People of the Fire Coin Purse		3.50	
		Seal Mug		3.50	
		People of the Fire Mug		3.50	
		Seal Drinking Jar		1.95	
		Insulated Fire Mug		5.00	
		Seal Tote Bag		7.25	
		People of the Fire Tote Bag		6.50	
		Small Buffalo		9.00	
		Medium Buffalo		12.00	
		Seal T-Shirt (One Color)		11.00	
		Frankoma Seal Coaster		5.50	
		Frankoma Seal Trivet		9.95	
		Frankoma Seal Coffee Mug		9.00	
		Embroidered Potawatomi Caps		13.00	
		Hot Stp. Seal Cap		7.00	
		Hot Stp. Fire Cap		7.00	
		People of the Fire T-Shirt		11.00	
		Native American Proud Baby Cup		2.50	
		Seal Insulated Mug		3.75	
		Seal Magnets		1.00	
		Ink Pen Pot.		3.50	
		CPN Ink Pen		1.50	

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